

REMARKS

After entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-9 are pending in the application.

Responsive to the restriction requirement, applicants provisionally elect to pursue the claims of group I. Thus, claim 7 (i.e., group 2) is designated as withdrawn.

Moreover, applicants respectfully traverse the restriction requirement.

It is not clear that the Office has met its *prima facie* burden of showing that the respective sets of claims are both independent and distinct. Further, even if the claims are independent and distinct, it is not believed that maintaining all claims in a single application would be unduly burdensome on the Office. Accordingly, withdrawal of the restriction requirement is solicited.

If the restriction requirement is made Final, applicants authorize the Examiner to cancel claim 7 by Examiner's Amendment, or applicants will do so in response to the next Action.

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Respectfully submitted,

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